

ROB PORTMAN
SECOND DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

1581
1-1808
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3502

June 30, 1998

1008 CANNON OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3164
portmail@hr.house.gov

KENWOOD OFFICE:
3044 MONTGOMERY ROAD
ROOM 540
CINCINNATI, OH 45236
(513) 791-0381

BATAVIA OFFICE:
175 EAST MAIN STREET
BATAVIA, OH 45103
(513) 732-2948

1-800-784-6366

Mr. Jack R. Craig, Jr.
Director Fernald Environmental Management Project
United States Department of Energy
PO Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Dear Jack:

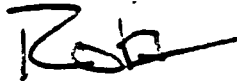
As I am sure you are aware, a few years ago, ancestral Native American remains were discovered during the clean-up of land adjacent to the Fernald Plant. In 1997, under the direction of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the American Indian people of the Miami Valley, a ceremony was held to return these remains to their original resting place.

It has now come to my attention that the Native American Alliance of Ohio (NAAO), on behalf of the many American Indian cultures in the region, has further requested that this land become a final resting place for not only the remains of the ancestors originally discovered, but also for those of all tribes throughout the state. According to the NAAO, in November of 1998, the Ohio Historical Society (who currently is in possession of hundreds of Indian remains) will have their inventory complete. At that time, a decision will have to be made as to where these remains will be permanently held.

It seems that this site is a natural place for the Native American ancestors of the Ohio region to be buried. Because time is of the essence, any assistance you are able to provide in helping the NAAO make this request a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should there be anything further I can do to help facilitate the process, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Kenwood office.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
Representative

RP'kb